

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH  
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A.

**Ammanford Urban  
District Council.**

**Medical Officer of  
Health's**

**Report**

**For 1952.**



"Amman Valley Chronicle," Ammanford.



# Ammanford Urban District Council.

AMMANFORD,

DECEMBER, 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1952.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. W. E. Thomas (January to April).

Dr. G. M. Herbert—from April.

Mr. L. Sunderland, M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

|                             |     |     |           |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Area of District            | ... | ... | 944 Acres |
| Population (mid-year, 1952) | ... | ... | 6,570     |
| Number of Inhabited Houses  | ... | ... | 1,918     |
| Rateable Value              | ... | ... | £28,686   |
| Net Produce of Penny Rate   | ... | ... | £107      |

## VITAL STATISTICS.

*Births during the Year:—*

These increased from 80 last year to 104.

|                                  |     |     |       |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Birth Rate for Ammanford         | ... | ... | 15.8  |
| Birth Rate for Carmarthenshire   | ... | ... | 13.98 |
| Birth Rate for England and Wales | ... | ... | 15.3  |

|                                        |     |     | M.    | F. | Total |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|----|-------|
| Live Births—Legitimate                 | ... | ... | 54    | 45 | 99    |
| Illegitimate                           | ... | ... | 2     | 3  | 5     |
|                                        |     |     | 56    | 48 | 104   |
| Still Births—Legitimate                | ... | ... | 2     | 1  | 3     |
| Illegitimate                           | ... | ... | 0     | 0  | 0     |
|                                        |     |     | 2     | 1  | 3     |
| Still Birth Rate for Ammanford         | ... | ... | 28.0  |    |       |
| Still Birth Rate for Carmarthenshire   | ... | ... | 28.09 |    |       |
| Still Birth Rate for England and Wales | ... | ... | 22.6  |    |       |

*Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—*

|                   |     |     |       |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Ammanford         | ... | ... | 38.4  |
| Carmarthenshire   | ... | ... | 32.68 |
| England and Wales | ... | ... | 27.6  |

*Deaths of Infants under 1 year.—*

|              |     |     | M. |     | F. |     | Total |
|--------------|-----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|-------|
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | 3  | ... | 1  | ... | 4     |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | 0  | ... | 0  | ... | 0     |

*Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:—*

|              |     |     |   |     |   |     |   |
|--------------|-----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|
| Legitimate   | ... | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | 0 | ... | 0 | ... | 0 |

*Deaths of Infants in Ages and Causes:—*

| Ages         | Causes      |           |              |    |           |    |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----|-----------|----|
|              | Prematurity |           | Pneumonia    |    |           |    |
|              |             |           | Aspirational |    | Bronchial |    |
|              | M.          | F.        | M.           | F. | M.        | F. |
| 6 hours ...  | 1           | 1 } twins |              |    |           |    |
| 10 hours ... |             |           |              |    |           |    |
| 1 day ...    |             |           | 1            |    |           |    |
| 2 days ...   |             |           |              |    | 1         |    |

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

*Ammanford—*

There were no deaths resulting from Pregnancy or Childbirth during 1952.

|                                 | Ammanford | Carmarthenshire | England and Wales |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|
| No. of deaths ...               | —         | 3               | 496               |
| Rate per 1,000 total births ... | 0         | 1.2             | 0.72              |

## CAUSES OF DEATHS IN 1952:—

|                                           | M. | F. |
|-------------------------------------------|----|----|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory Tract ...     | 1  | 0  |
| Tuberculosis of Non-Respiratory Tract ... | 0  | 0  |
| Cancer ...                                | 9  | 5  |
| Intra-Cranial Vascular Disease ...        | 4  | 9  |
| Coronary Disease, Angina ...              | 7  | 2  |
| Other Heart Diseases ...                  | 7  | 8  |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...  | 5  | 1  |
| Bronchitis ...                            | 1  | 2  |

Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population:—

Deaths from Cancer.—

Total 14 ... Males 9 ... Females 5

[illegible]

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during 1952—Total 52.

|                |     |     | No. of Cases Notified |     | Ratio per 1,000 Civilian Population |                   |      |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------|
|                |     |     |                       |     | Ammanford                           | England and Wales |      |
| Measles        | ... | ... | 22                    | ... | 3.3                                 | ...               | 8.86 |
| Scarlet Fever  | ... | ... | 6                     | ... | —                                   | ...               | 1.53 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | 15                    | ... | 2.28                                | ...               | 2.61 |
| Diphtheria     | ... | ... | 0                     | ... | 0.0                                 | ...               | 0.01 |
| Pneumonia      | ... | ... | 7                     | ... | 1.06                                | ...               | 0.72 |
| Poliomyelitis  | ... | ... | 1                     | ... | —                                   | ...               | —    |
| Meningitis     | ... | ... | 1                     | ... | 0.15                                | ...               | 0.03 |

## DIPHTHERIA:—

No cases of Diphtheria occurred in the area since, but if freedom from this disease is to continue, it is vital that 75 per cent. of all infants should receive the full course of Immunisation before their first birthday. The Immunisation is given either by the family doctor or at the Infants' Welfare Clinic.

Sixty Children, aged 0—4 years received a full course of Immunisation during 1952, but no reinforcing injections were given.

## PARATYPHOID:—

A number of cases of this disease occurred in neighbouring districts during the year, but there were none in the Urban. As a precaution, leaflets entitled, "Safe Handling of Food," were distributed to all food premises in the area at that time.

## TUBERCULOSIS:—

Seven new cases were notified during the year, compared with eight new cases last year.

There was one death, and four last year.

|       | New Cases. |   |                |   | Deaths.    |   |               |   |
|-------|------------|---|----------------|---|------------|---|---------------|---|
|       | Pulmonary. |   | Non-Pulmonary. |   | Pulmonary. |   | Non-Pulmonary |   |
| M.    | ...        | 4 | ...            | 0 | ...        | 1 | ...           | 0 |
| F.    | ...        | 1 | ...            | 2 | ...        | 0 | ...           | 0 |
| Total | ...        | 5 | ...            | 2 | ...        | 1 | ...           | 0 |

Rate per 1,000 population—

|          |      |     |      |     |      |     |      |
|----------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| A. U. D. | 0.76 | ... | 0.30 | ... | 0.15 | ... | 0    |
| C. C.    | 1.17 | ... | 0.25 | ... | 0.20 | ... | 0.06 |

The Mass Radiography Unit was stationed in the town for three days during the year. 1,915 attended for examination; approximately 29 per cent. of the population. Only one person was found to have definite Tuberculosis, and 13 others required further observation. 333 other abnormalities were discovered, but approximately one-third of these (110) were cases of Pneumoconiosis.

The following is the report of the survey of the General Population and Schoolchildren:—

## Analysis in Age Groups:—

|                                                                       | Grand<br>Total   | Under 15<br>M. F. | 15-24<br>M. F. | 25-34<br>M. F. | 35-44<br>M. F. | 45-59<br>M. F. | 60 and<br>over<br>M. F. | Totals<br>M. F. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Number of Persons<br>examined ...                               | 1915             | 110 136           | 87 227         | 158 193        | 197 221        | 225 199        | 112 50                  | 889 1026        |
| Total Number found to be<br>abnormal ...                              | 347 or<br>18.21% | 3 4               | 7 18           | 23 18          | 44 22          | 96 28          | 70 14                   | 243 104         |
| Classification of Abnormal<br>Cases—                                  | 1 or<br>0.05%    |                   |                |                | 1              |                |                         | 1               |
| (a) Definite Pulmonary<br>T.B. ...                                    |                  |                   |                |                |                |                |                         |                 |
| (b) Needing further obser-<br>vance for Pulmonary<br>Tuberculosis ... | 13 or<br>0.68%   | 2 1               |                | 1 1            | 2 2            | 4 4            | 2 2                     | 11 2            |
| (c) Other Abnormalities of<br>the Chest ...                           | 333 or<br>17.39% | 1 3               | 7 18           | 22 17          | 42 21          | 92 28          | 68 14                   | 232 101         |

I wish to express my thanks to all the Staff of the Mass Radio-  
graphy Unit for their help in this work, and also to Dr. J. T.  
Jones, Chest Physician, for all his kindness and co-operation at  
the Welsh National Memorial Clinic held at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday  
at 24a, Quay Street.

## CLINICS.

Ante-Natal Clinic

... 1 At the Clinic, High Street, on Thursday Mornings, Dr. M Daves and Nurses in attendance.

2. Amman Valley Hospital, Mondays, at 1 p.m.

Infant Welfare

... At the Clinic, High Street, every other Tuesday afternoon. Dr. A. Morgan and Nurses in attendance.

School Clinics: 1, Orthopædic At Clinic, High Street, on Monday.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

A County Ambulance and Car is stationed in the Town.

## MIDWIVES.

There are three fully qualified Midwives residing and practising in the Area.

# SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The Supply of Water for the District was again plentiful throughout the year, and the Filters and Chlorination Plant have worked satisfactorily. Some difficulty is still being experienced in maintaining a constant supply to the higher reaches of the district, but everything possible is done in this direction. On the whole, the supply was good and fairly regular. The Joint Water Board is faced with abnormal pressure conditions, a wide variation of pressure as between day and night being inseparable from the present supply system. Consumption per head is very high and is in the region of 48 gallons per day. The water is sampled regularly by the Joint Water Board, and reports are satisfactory. The entire population is served direct, there being no stand-pipes. When the new Scheme is completed, a regular and adequate supply will at all times be available for all parts of the district.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewers have again functioned throughout the year without trouble. The system is by gravitation to the Disposal Works, and is under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. It is now proposed to construct additional disposal facilities in order to prevent the overloading of the works which now occurs.



## RIVERS, ETC., POLLUTION.

During the year there has been no serious pollution of rivers in the district. The most serious source of pollution at present is the discharge of washery effluents from Collieries outside the Urban Area. These effluents are treated by subsidence before discharge, and when the tanks are kept clear of silt, the effluents are discharged in a fairly clean condition. There is, however, no guarantee that the tanks are cleared sufficiently.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The statistics in this matter are as follows:—

|                                                                                                                    |     |     |     |     |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Sewers                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1905 |
| No. of Houses with Closets on the Water Carriage System connected to Cesspits, remaining to be connected to Sewers |     |     |     |     | 3    |
| No. of Houses with Closets built on the Conservancy System, not able to connect to Sewers                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8    |
| No. of Houses remaining to be connected                                                                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2    |

## PUBLIC CLEANSING—DRY REFUSE.

The Council undertakes the removal of all Dry House Refuse, collection being made by the Council Lorry twice weekly from all parts of the Town. The Refuse when collected, is tipped at Myddynfych Farm and Rhydymaerdy. The Myddynfych tip is outside the Urban Area. Trade Refuse from Fruiterers' and Fishmongers' shops is disposed of by the Tradesmen by tipping on a farm near Bettws Mountain. In my opinion, immediately the supply position improves, steps should be taken to enforce the provision by householders of proper Dustbins, as all kinds of insanitary receptacles are now used. It has always been the exception to see a proper covered Dustbin in the streets of the Town, all kinds of boxes, tins and buckets being used for the purpose. Under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, the provision of a proper covered Dustbin can be enforced.

## PRIVIES, CESSPITS, ETC.

The contents of the remaining Pail Closets are buried by the Householders in their gardens, and the Cesspits, being built on the soakaway principle, no clearance is required, the subsoil being of a porous nature.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

|                                      |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| No of Inspections made for Nuisances | ... | ... | 451 |
| No. of Informal Notices served       | ... | ... | 73  |
| No of Statutory Notices served       | ... | ... | Nil |
| No. of Water Leakage Inspections     | ... | ... | 84  |
| No. of Water Leakage Notices         | ... | ... | 72  |

## CAMPING SITES.

There are no Licences now in force; those at the Old Chemical Works having been withdrawn and the persons concerned having been housed by the Council. No suitable sites exist within the Urban Area. Several applications have been received, but no licences have been granted.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary under this head.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools in the Urban Area.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

|                                            |     |     |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of Council Houses found to be infested | ... | ... | Nil |
| No. of other Houses found to be infested   | ... | ... | Nil |
| No. of Houses disinfested                  | ... | ... | Nil |

## SCHOOLS.

There are five Schools in the Area and one Private School, and frequent visits are paid to them. The sanitary condition of the Schools is excellent, each being provided with modern sanitary conveniences connected to the Sewers, and with an abundant supply of Water from the Council mains.

## SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES SUBJECT TO CONTROL OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the Area, nor are there any Registered Houses let in Lodgings.

## HOUSING.

*Inspection of Houses during the year:—*

- 1.—(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects under Public Health or Housing Act ... 152
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 171
- 2.—Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil
- 3.—Number of Houses found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation ... 43

*Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice:*

|                                                                                                                                                   |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit during the year in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Offices ... .. | 41 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—*

*(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

|                                                                                                            |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Defects to be remedied ... | 31 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were made fit after Service of Formal Notice ... ..                    | 31 |

*(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act:—*

|                                                                                                       |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring to be remedied ... .. | 29 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which Defects were remedied after Service of Formal Notice ... ..    | 29 |

*(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—*

|                                                                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. | Nil |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

*(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

|                                                                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| No action was taken, as there are no Tenements or Underground Rooms occupied in the Area ... .. | Nil |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

*Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding:—*

|                                                                         |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a)—(1) No. of Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year                | 15  |
| (2) No. of Families Dwelling therein ... ..                             | 32  |
| (3) No of Persons Dwelling there ... ..                                 | 128 |
| (4) No of Houses occupied for first time during 1952                    | 43  |
| (b)—Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year ... .. | Nil |
| (c)—(1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. | 43  |
| (2) Number of Families Dwelling therein ... ..                          | 43  |

Good progress is now being made with the provision of new Houses, and it is anticipated that a number of cases of overcrowding will be relieved during 1953.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF THE FOOD SUPPLY. MILK.

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Cowsheds in the Urban Area ... ..   | 8  |
| Number of Milk Shops in the Urban Area ... .. | 5  |
| Number of Inspections made ... ..             | 56 |

Four Retailers sell Pasteurised Milk, which is produced, treated and bottled outside the Area, and one sells T.T. Milk, also brought into the Area from outside.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Foodstuffs exposed for sale in the shops are regularly examined so as to protect the Public from the consumption of Unsound Food. The general quality is not of the same standard as in pre-War years, but this is probably true of all parts of the country. Meat is now brought into the district from Ministry Stores and Abattoirs, so no slaughtering is done at Ammanford.

## BAKEHOUSES.

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Bakehouses on the Register ... .. | 6  |
| Number of Inspections made ... ..           | 34 |

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the Area. No action was taken by the Local Authority in the matter.

## NUTRITION.

### *Dissemination of Knowledge:—*

|                                        |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|
| Particulars of any special work ... .. | Nil |
|----------------------------------------|-----|

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Number of Houses fumigated after cases of Infectious Diseases ... .. | 51 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

Free Disinfectants are supplied by the Council, and the rooms are fumigated with Formalin Vapour after the period of isolation is ended, or immediately the patient is removed to hospital. No facilities exist in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons or their goods.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Number of Factories on the Register ... .. | 59  |
| Number of Inspections made ... ..          | 217 |

All defects brought to the notice of Factory owners and managements were attended to.

## CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE.

Much good work has been done in the control of the Rat population. Our Operator is kept at work regularly on Rodent Control. It is the practice to test the Sewers once in each year, Refuse Tips being dealt with as required. Many premises where infestations have been discovered, have been cleared of Rats, and no evidence of their return has been found after the lapse of a considerable period of time. The financial assistance received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has made it possible to give free service to all householders, and it is hoped that this assistance will not be withdrawn so that the continued co-operation of householders can be obtained, as a large number of Rats are destroyed by following up complaints and reports received from all parts of the Town.

The Rats destroyed, and in fact the Pre-bait takes, prove that since the inception of the Scheme under the Infestation Order, the number of Rats in the Town has been considerably reduced.

Your obedient servants,

G. M. HERBERT, M.O.H.

L. SUNDERLAND, Sanitary Inspector.





